

REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to the rejection raised in the Office action, and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Further, the Applicants do not acquiesce to any portion of the Office Action not particularly addressed. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

In the Office action, the Office noted that claims 1-10 are pending and rejected. Applicants amend claims 1 and 8. Applicants has not introduced by way of the foregoing amendments.

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102 or obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Thus, Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in condition for allowance.

REJECTION

The Office rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and claims 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,362,851 issued to Lavelle et al. (hereon after "*Lavelle*"). Moreover, the Office rejected claims 1-3, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lavelle* in view of in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,483,993 issued to Misumi et al. (hereon after "*Misumi*").

A. Applicant's Response to the 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants amend claim 9 to better describe Applicants' inventive concept and to remedy the anomaly. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Applicant's Response to the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office rejected claims 1-3, 8, 9, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over *Lavelle*. The Applicants traverse the rejection.

As the Examiner is aware, "anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim." *Lindemann Maschinen Fabrick GmbH v. American Hoist Derrick Co.*, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984) [emphasis added]. Applicant

submits that the cited reference is devoid from disclosing at least one element recited in Applicant recited invention.

In the Office Action, the Office insinuated that *Lavelle* discloses all the elements recited in claim 8. In support of the rejection, the Office indicated that *Lavelle* discloses “a timer (inherent part), the timer providing a selected time delay between a first simulated optical image acquisition (first state of release button 70) and an actual optical image acquisition (second state of release button 7), (*Lavelle*, paragraph [0027] and [0028]).” *Office Action*, at page 3. Applicants respectfully traverses the rejection.

Amended claim 8 recites a combination of elements directed to a method of acquiring an image. The combination of elements includes “after a preselected period of time, as a result of said instruction and after said simulation, acquiring an image of the subject by the digital camera.” [Emphasis Added]

Lavelle, on the other hand, discloses a “two stage shutter release button” that allows a photographer to press “the shutter release 70 half way (first stage of the two stage shutter release), step 120, to indicate the scene is framed in the desired manner and that they are waiting for the correct instant to capture the image.” *Lavelle*, at paragraph [0027] and [0028]. *Lavelle* discloses a two stage in which the “camera is turned on and an initialization process is performed to get the camera ready, step 100 [and the] time period for compensation of the photographer’s lag is selected, step 10.” *Id*

Thus, *Lavelle* specifically discloses a two stage shutter release with a time period for compensation. However, *Lavelle* is devoid from disclosing “after a preselected period of time, as a result of said instruction and after said simulation, acquiring an image of the subject by the digital camera,” as recited in claim 8. Thus, Applicants submit that *Lavelle* does not teach all the elements recited in claim 8. The Applicants submit that *Lavelle* does not anticipate claim 8. Hence, Claim 8, in view of *Lavelle*, satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and is in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 depend directly from claim 8, and necessarily contain each and every element recited in their respective claim. Since the Applicants submit that *Lavelle* does not anticipate claim 8, the Applicants further submit that *Lavelle* also does not anticipate claim 9. Hence, claims 1-16 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and are in condition for allowance.

C. Applicant's Response to the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of claims 10-12, 15 and 16

The Office rejected claims 1-3, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lavelle* in view of *Misumi*. The Applicants traverse the rejection.

In the Office Action, the Office insinuated that *Lavelle* and *Misumi* discloses all the elements recited in claim 1. Amended claim 1 recites a combination of elements directed to a digital camera. The combination of elements includes “a controllable shutter for exposing the photosensitive region and for simulating an actual image acquisition without actually acquiring the image or exposing the photosensitive region.” [Emphasis Added]

Lavelle, on the other hand, discloses a “two stage shutter release button” that allows a photographer to press “the shutter release 70 half way (first stage of the two stage shutter release), step 120, to indicate the scene is framed in the desired manner and that they are waiting for the correct instant to capture the image.” *Lavelle*, at paragraph [0027] and [0028]. *Lavelle* discloses a two stage in which the “camera is turned on and an initialization process is performed to get the camera ready, step 100 [and the] time period for compensation of the photographer's lag is selected, step 10.” *Id.* *Misumi*, on the other hand, discloses a “camera position display portion for displaying portion for displaying the position camera at which a to-be-photographed person looks at the time of photographing by the camera....” *Misumi*, at Abstract.

Thus, *Lavelle* and *Misumi*, alone and in combination, are devoid from disclosing “a controllable shutter for exposing the photosensitive region and for simulating an actual image acquisition without actually acquiring the image or exposing the photosensitive region,” as recited in claim 1. Thus, Applicants submit that *Lavelle* and *Misumi*, alone and in combination, do not teach all the elements recited in claim 1. The Applicants submit that *Lavelle* and *Misumi*, alone and in combination, do not deem claim 1 obvious. Hence, Claim 1, in view of *Lavelle* and *Misumi*, alone and in combination, satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-3, 13 and 14 depend directly from claim 1, and necessarily contain each and every element recited in their respective claim. Since the Applicants submit that *Lavelle* and *Misumi*, alone and in combination, do not deem claim 1 obvious, the

Applicants further submit that *Lavelle* and *Misumi*, alone and in combination, also do not deem claims 2-3, 13 and 14 obvious.

The Applicants note that the Office cited *Lavelle* and *Misumi* for the proposition that it teaches all of the elements of independent claim 1, from which the dependent claims 2-3, 13 and 14 ultimately depend. The Applicants also note that the Office only cited *Wada* and *Chatani* with respect to the subject matter claimed in the dependent claims 2-3, 13 and 14.

Given that each of the dependent claims 2-3, 13 and 14 depend, directly or indirectly, from either independent claim 1, each necessarily includes all the elements of their respective independent claim. Since *Lavelle* and *Misumi*, alone and in combination, do not teach all the elements of the independent claim 1 and since the Office only cited *Chatani* with respect to the subject matter claimed in the dependent claims 2-3, 13 and 14, the Applicants, therefore, submit that *Lavelle* and *Misumi* and *Chatani*, alone and in combination, do not teach all the elements or render claims 1 and 8 obvious. Thus, the Applicants further submit that *Lavelle* and *Misumi* and *Chatani*, alone and in combination, do not render each of the dependent claims 2-3, 13 and 14, depending from either claim 1, obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-16.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants submit that none of the claims presently in the application are anticipates under 35 U.S.C. §102 or obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Office believes that any unresolved issues still exist or if, in the opinion of the Office, a telephone conference would expedite passing the present application to issue, the Office is invited to call the undersigned attorney directly at 972-917-4365 or the office of the undersigned attorney at 972-917-5352 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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